Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Chemical Communications. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2020

- Electronic Supporting Information -

Ruthenium(II)-catalyzed amide directed spiroannulation with naphthoquinones: access to spiro-isoindolinone frameworks

Suman Dana, Chandan Kumar Giri, and Mahiuddin Baidya*

Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai 600036, India mbaidya@iitm.ac.in

Table of Contents

1	General information	S3
2	References (from manuscript)	S3
3	Optimization of reaction conditions	S4
4	Typical ruthenium(II)-catalyzed <i>spiroannulation</i> between hydroxamic acid esters (1) and quinone (2)	S5
5	Typical scaled up ruthenium(II)-catalyzed <i>spiroannulation</i> between hydroxamic acid esters (1a) and quinone (2a)	S5
6	Typical synthesis of benzo[b]phenanthridine-5,7,12(6H)-triones (4) through transannulation of spiroisoindolinones (3)	S6
7	H/D-Scrambling study	S6
8	Kinetic Isotope Effect (KIE) Study	S8
9	Radical scavenger study	S10
10	Studying the role of oxygen	S10
11	Reaction with phenyl vinyl sulfone (5a)	S11
12	NMR spectroscopic data of synthesized compounds	S12
13	NMR spectra of synthesized compounds	S17

General information

[Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ was purchased from Alfa Aesar company. Benzoic acids, MeONH₂.HCl, trifluoroethanol (TFE), naphthoquinone, and KOAc were purchased from Avra chemicals and Spectrochem. All the compounds were utilized without further purification. Commercial grade solvent was directly used for the reaction without drying.

All reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) on Merck 60 F 254 precoated silica plates and visualized using a UV lamp (366 or 254 nm) or by use of potassium permanganate, 5 g K₂CO₃, / 100 mL water. Products were isolated by column chromatography (Merck silica gel 100-200 μ m).

¹³C and ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 or Bruker 500 MHz spectrometers. Chemical shift values (δ) are reported in ppm and calibrated to the residual solvent peak CDCl₃ $\delta = 7.2600$ ppm for ¹H, $\delta = 77.16$ for ¹³C; or calibrated to tetramethylsilane ($\delta = 0.00$). All NMR spectra were recorded at ambient temperature (290 K) unless otherwise noted. ¹H NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift (multiplicity, coupling constant, integration). The following abbreviations are used to indicate multiplicities: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; dd, doublet of doublet; dt, doublet of triplet; dq, doublet of quartet; td, triplet of doublet; tt, triplet of triplet; dq, doublet of quartet; br, broad.

Mass spectra were recorded by electron spray ionization (ESI) method on a Q-TOF Micro with lock spray source.

References (from manuscript):

(9) (a) P. J. Seaton and S. J. Gould, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1988, 110, 5912; (b) M. P. Gore, S. J. Gould and D. D. Weller, J. Org. Chem., 1991, 56, 2289; (c) M. C. Cone, C. R. Melville, M. P. Gore and S. J. Gould, J. Org. Chem., 1993, 58, 1058; (d) W. Martin Owton, J. Chem. Soc. - Perkin Trans. 1, 1999, 14, 2409; (e) M. A. Colucci, G. D. Couch and C. J. Moody, Org. Biomol. Chem., 2008, 6, 637; (f) J. Iribarra, D. Vásquez, C. Theoduloz, J. Benites, D. Ríos and J. A. Valderrama, Molecules, 2012, 17, 11616; (g) X. L. Xu and Z. Li, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2017, 56, 8196.

(10) (a) E. A. Couladouros and A. T. Strongilos, *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 2000, 41, 535; (b) J. G. Handique and J. B. Baruah, *J. Mol. Catal. A Chem.*, 2002, **184**, 85; (c) C. D. S. Lisboa, V. G. Santos, B. G. Vaz, N. C. De Lucas, M. N. Eberlin and S. J. Garden, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2011, **76**, 5264; (d) E. Yagodkin, K. A. McGarry and C. J. Douglas, *Org. Prep. Proced. Int.*, 2011, **43**, 360.

Optimization of reaction conditions:

	$\begin{array}{c} O \\ HOMe \\ + \\ CF_3CH_2OH, 60 \ ^{\circ}C, 30 \ \text{min} \end{array}$	Ja Sa	
entry	deviation from standard conditions		3a (%)
1	none		84
2	DMF instead of TFE		NP
3	DCE instead of TFE		NP
4	THF instead of TFE		NP
5	MeOH instead of TFE		<10
6	HFIP, or TCE instead of TFE		66
7	TCE instead of TFE		29
8	H ₂ O instead of TFE		NR
9	Acetic acid instead of TFE		NR
10	NaOAc instead of KOAc		73
11	K ₂ CO ₃ instead of KOAc		<5
12	K ₃ PO ₄ instead of KOAc		<5
13	At room temperature		38^b
14	at 80 °C		35
15	without [Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂		trace
16	Without KOAc		trace
17	[Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)(OAc) ₂] instead of [Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂		52 ^c
18	Pd(OAc) ₂ instead of [Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂		trace
19	[Cp*IrCl ₂] ₂ instead of [Ru(<i>p</i> -cymene)Cl ₂] ₂		trace
10	reaction in 1.5 mmol scale		76^{d}

^{*a*}Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), **2a** (1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5 mol %), KOAc (0.5 equiv), TFE= 0.3 mL, air at 60 °C for 30 min. ^{*b*}Reaction was performed for 24 h. ^{*c*}10 mol % catalyst was used. ^{*d*}Reaction time was 1 h. TFE: trifluoroethanol; DCE: 1,2-dichloroethane; HFIP: hexafluoroisopropanol; TCE: 2,2,2-trichloroethanol; NP: complex reaction mixture with no product formation; NR: no reaction with recovery of starting materials.

Typical ruthenium(II)-catalyzed *spiroannulation* between hydroxamic acid esters (1) and quinone (2):



Procedure: To an oven dried screw cap reaction tube $(10 \times 1.5 \text{ cm})$, corresponding benzamide **1** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), quinone (**2**, 1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), and KOAc (0.5 equiv) were taken. Then trifluoroethanol (0.3 mL) was added in it and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min under air. Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure spiroisoindolinone **3**, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate.

Typical scaled up ruthenium(II)-catalyzed *spiroannulation* between hydroxamic acid esters (1a) and quinone (2a):



Procedure: To an oven dried screw cap reaction tube $(10 \times 1.5 \text{ cm})$, corresponding benzamide **1a** (1.5 mmol, 1.0 equiv), quinone (**2a**, 1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), and KOAc (0.5 equiv) were taken. Then trifluoroethanol (3.0 mL) was added in it and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 1 h under air. Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure spiroisoindolinone **3a**, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate. Product obtained 76% (365 mg).

Typical synthesis of benzo[b]phenanthridine-5,7,12(*6H*)-triones (4) through transannulation of spiroisoindolinones (3):



Procedure: To an oven dried screw cap reaction tube $(10 \times 1.5 \text{ cm})$, corresponding spiroisoindolinone (3) (0.1 mmol, 1.0 equiv) and KOH (2.5 equiv) were taken. Then ethanol (1.0 mL) was added in it and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 12 h under air. After completion (monitored by TLC), the reaction was quenched with 0.1 mL acetic acid and then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure quinone **4**, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of dichloromethane (DCM) and ethyl acetate.

Solubility of these products are very less in common organic solvents. NMR spectroscopic data of these compounds are recorded in dilute CDCl₃ solution.

Mechanistic studies:

(a) H/D-Scrambling study:



Procedure: To an oven dried screw cap reaction tube (10×1.5 cm), corresponding benzamide **1a** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), quinone (**2a**, 1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), KOAc (0.5 equiv), and D₂O (20.0 equiv) were taken. Then trifluoroethanol (0.3 mL) was added in it and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min under air. Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure product **3a/3a'**, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate. The H/D-scrambling was observed through ¹H NMR spectroscopy.





(b) Kinetic Isotope Effect (KIE) Study:

Competition Experiment-



Procedure: To an oven dried screw cap reaction tube (10 × 1.5 cm), corresponding benzamides H₅-1b (20.0 mg, 0.5 equiv), D₅-1b (20.0 mg, 0.5 equiv), quinone (2a, 1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), and KOAc (0.5 equiv) were taken. Then trifluoroethanol (0.5 mL) was added in it and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 5 min under air. Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure spiroisoindolinone, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate. The value of $p_{\rm H}/p_{\rm D}$ was calculated using NMR.



H₅-1b or D₅-1b + 2a
$$\xrightarrow{3 \text{ min}}$$
 H₄-3b or D₄-3b
 $k_{\text{H}}/k_{\text{D}}$ = 1.19 31% 26%

Procedure: In two separate oven dried screw cap reaction tubes (10×1.5 cm), corresponding benzamides H₅-1b (20.0 mg, 0.5 equiv) and D₅-1b (20.0 mg, 0.5 equiv) were taken. Then quinone (**2a**, 1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), and KOAc (0.5 equiv) were added in each of them followed by the addition of trifluoroethanol (0.25 mL). The reaction tubes were stirred at 60 °C for 3 min under air. Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure spiroisoindolinone, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate. The value of $k_{\rm H}/k_{\rm D}$ was calculated using the ratio of isolated yields.

(c) Radical scavenger study:



Procedure: To an oven dried screw cap reaction tube $(10 \times 1.5 \text{ cm})$, corresponding benzamide **1a** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), quinone (**2a**, 1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), KOAc (0.5 equiv), and radical scavenger (3.0 equiv) were taken. Then trifluoroethanol (0.3 mL) was added in it and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min under air. Then the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure spiroisoindolinone **3a**, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate.

(d) Studying the role of aerial oxygen:



Procedure: To an oven dried test tube (10×1.5 cm), corresponding benzamide **1a** (0.15 mmol, 1.0 equiv), quinone (**2a**, 1.2 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), KOAc (0.5 equiv), and radical scavenger (3.0 equiv) were taken. The test tube was closed with a rubber septum and it was backfilled with N₂ gas. Then trifluoroethanol (0.3 mL) was added in it and the reaction mixture was degassed with N₂ for 2 minutes. Then the reaction was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min. Next the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure spiroisoindolinone **3a**, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate.

The same experiment was repeated with 2.2 equiv of quinone **2a**. The increase in yield with increasing quinone amount hints of the crucial role of aerial oxygen in the transformation.

(e) Reaction with phenyl vinyl sulfone (5a):



Procedure: To an oven dried test tube (10×1.5 cm), corresponding benzamide **1a** (0.25 mmol, 1.0 equiv), phenyl vinyl sulfone (**5a**, 1.5 equiv), [Ru(*p*-cymene)Cl₂]₂ (5.0 mol %), and KOAc (0.5 equiv) were taken. Then trifluoroethanol (0.3 mL) was added in it and the reaction was stirred at 60 °C for 24 h under air. Next the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. In order to get pure product **6a**, the resulting residue was purified by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient eluent of hexane and ethyl acetate.

The cleavage of N–O bond hints of the formation of Ru(0)-species during the reaction.

NMR spectroscopic data of synthesized compounds:















3f, 74%



2-Methoxy-6-methyl-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (**3a**): yield 84% (41 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.35 – 8.10 (m, 2H), 8.01 – 7.69 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.22 (m, 1H), 6.64 (s, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (d, *J* = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.0, 189.9, 165.7, 144.0, 140.9, 135.8, 135.5, 135.2, 134.3, 131.0, 128.7, 127.1, 126.3, 124.9, 122.0, 73.3, 65.3, 46.3, 22.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅NO₄Na 344.0899; Found 344.0894.

2-Methoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3b): yield 72% (33 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.89 (m, 2H), 7.88 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.53 – 7.46 (m, 1H), 7.43 – 7.36 (m, 1H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.95 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 189.8, 165.4, 140.5, 135.9, 135.6, 135.2, 134.3, 133.0, 130.1, 129.1, 128.7, 127.1, 125.1, 121.6, 73.6, 65.3, 46.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃NO₄Na 330.0742; Found 330.0741.

6-(tert-Butyl)-2-methoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-

trione (3c): yield 80% (44 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroformd) δ 8.28 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.78 (m, 3H), 7.57 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 6.82 (s, 1H), 4.10 (s, 3H), 3.92 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 1.12 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 190.1, 165.7, 157.2, 140.6, 135.9, 135.5, 135.1, 134.4, 128.6, 127.5, 126.8, 126.2, 124.7, 118.3, 73.6, 65.3, 46.4, 35.4, 31.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₂H₂₁NO₄Na 386.1368; Found 386.1365.

2-Methoxy-4-methyl-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione

(3d): yield 55% (26 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.24 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.16 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.87 – 7.78 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.18 (m, 2H), 6.66 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 3.91 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.71 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.1, 190.1, 166.7, 141.0, 139.6, 135.9, 135.4, 135.1, 134.4, 132.3, 132.1, 128.7, 127.1, 126.0, 119.1, 72.9, 65.2, 46.4, 17.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅NO₄Na 344.0899; Found 344.0894.

2-Methoxy-5-methyl-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (**3e**): yield 86% (41 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.22 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.12 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.75 (m, 2H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.17 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.90 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.11 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 189.9, 165.5, 140.5, 137.7, 135.8, 135.4, 135.1, 134.3, 133.7, 129.0, 128.6, 127.0, 125.3, 121.4, 73.4, 65.2, 46.3, 21.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅NO₄Na 344.0899; Found 344.0897.

2,6-Dimethoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3f): yield 74% (37 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 – 8.19 (m, 1H), 8.19 – 8.11 (m, 1H), 7.96 – 7.73 (m, 3H), 7.03 – 6.90 (m, 1H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.87 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.16 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.8, 189.8, 165.9, 163.5, 142.7, 135.8, 135.5, 135.1, 134.3, 128.7, 127.0, 126.7, 121.1, 115.1, 108.2, 73.3, 65.3, 55.8, 46.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₅NO₅Na 360.0848; Found 360.0846.

5-Chloro-2-methoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (**3g**): yield 70% (36 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.23 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.81 (m, 3H), 7.39 – 7.30 (m, 1H), 6.79 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (s, 3H), 3.91 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.4, 189.3, 163.9, 138.5, 136.6, 135.7 (2C), 135.3, 134.0, 133.0, 131.0, 128.7, 127.2, 125.2, 123.0, 73.3, 65.3, 46.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₂CINO₄Na 364.0353; Found 364.0352.





3i, 50%











5-Bromo-2-methoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione

(**3h**): yield 64% (37 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.28 – 8.20 (m, 1H), 8.18 – 8.12 (m, 1H), 8.02 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.82 (m, 2H), 7.56 – 7.45 (m, 1H), 6.73 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³**C** NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.4, 189.2, 163.8, 139.0, 135.8 (2C), 135.7, 135.3, 134.1, 131.1, 128.8, 128.2, 127.2, 124.4, 123.2, 73.4, 65.3, 46.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₂BrNO₄Na 407.9847; Found 407.9839.

2-Methoxy-4,6-dimethyl-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-

trione (3i): yield 50% (25 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroformd) δ 8.23 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.19 – 8.12 (m, 1H), 7.94 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.02 (s, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H), 3.87 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (s, 3H), 2.19 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.3, 190.2, 167.1, 143.3, 141.5, 139.3, 135.8, 135.4, 135.1, 134.3, 133.0, 128.7, 127.0, 123.3, 119.6, 72.8, 65.2, 46.4, 22.0, 17.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇NO₄Na 358.1055; Found 358.1053.

2-Methoxy-5,6-dimethyl-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-

trione (3j): yield 77% (39 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroformd) δ 8.23 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.76 (m, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 6.57 (s, 1H), 4.05 (s, 3H), 3.88 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.1, 190.0, 166.0, 142.7, 139.3, 138.5, 135.8, 135.4, 135.1, 134.3, 128.6, 127.0, 126.6, 125.7, 122.4, 73.2, 65.2, 46.4, 20.7, 20.0 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇NO₄Na 358.1055; Found 358.1054.

2,5,6-Trimethoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3k): yield 82% (45 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.22 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 6.28 (s, 1H), 3.98 (s, 3H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.82 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 3.20 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.0, 190.0, 166.8, 153.5, 151.1, 135.8, 135.4, 135.1, 134.4 (2C), 128.6, 126.8, 121.3, 106.5, 104.2, 73.1, 65.4, 56.5, 56.2, 46.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₇NO₆Na 390.0954; Found 390.0948.

2-Methoxy-1'H-spiro[benzo[f]isoindole-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(2H,3'H)-trione (**31**): yield 83% (44 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz,) δ 8.42 (s, 1H), 8.31 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.01 – 7.91 (m, 2H), 7.90 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.49 (m, 2H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 4.18 (s, 3H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.1, 189.8, 165.0, 135.9, 135.6, 135.5, 135.3, 135.1, 134.3, 133.4, 129.6, 128.9, 128.6 (2C), 127.7, 127.2, 126.0, 125.9, 121.2, 73.3, 65.4, 46.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₂H₁₅NO₄Na 380.0899; Found 380.0898.

2,5,6,7-Tetramethoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (**3m**): yield 65% (39 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.20 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.80 (m, 1H), 7.81 – 7.73 (m, 1H), 7.16 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.63 (d, J = 16.6 Hz, 1H), 3.50 – 3.40 (m, 4H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.1, 190.1, 166.6, 156.3, 148.0, 145.5, 136.3, 135.2, 134.2, 133.7, 128.4, 126.4, 126.2, 124.6, 102.5, 71.8, 65.4, 61.1, 60.0, 56.6, 44.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₁H₁₉NO₇Na 420.1059; Found 420.1053.

6-Hydroxy-2-methoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (**3n**): yield 71% (34 mg) as grey sticky solid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 10.52 (s, 1H), 8.25 – 7.89 (m, 4H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.44 (s, 1H), 3.95 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.5 (d, *J* = 16.1 Hz, 1H, merged with water peak) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 193.3, 190.1, 165.5, 162.0, 143.2, 135.8, 135.5, 135.2, 133.7, 127.8, 126.5, 126.0, 118.8, 117.5, 108.8, 72.5, 64.8, 45.7 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₃NO₅Na 346.0691; Found 346.0683.















6-(Benzyloxy)-2-methoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-

trione (30): yield 62% (38 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform*d*) δ 8.23 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.14 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.93 – 7.87 (m, 1H), 7.87 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.21 (m, 5H), 7.05 (dd, J = 8.5, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 4.92 (s, 2H), 4.06 (s, 3H), 3.89 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.8, 189.7, 165.8, 162.6, 142.6, 135.7, 135.5 (2C), 135.1, 134.3, 128.9, 128.7, 128.5, 127.6, 127.1, 126.8, 121.3, 116.2, 108.8, 73.3, 70.7, 65.3, 46.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₅H₁₉NO₅Na 436.1161; Found 436.1158.

2-Methoxy-6-phenyl-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (**3q**): yield 64% (37 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.25 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.81 (m, 3H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.96 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 189.7, 165.4, 146.4, 141.2, 139.7, 135.8, 135.7, 135.2, 134.2, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.6, 127.8, 127.45, 127.07, 125.41, 120.3, 73.5, 65.4, 46.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₄H₁₇NO₄Na 406.1055; Found 406.1055.

2-Methoxy-6-(p-tolyl)-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (**3q**): yield 65% (39 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.98 – 7.81 (m, 3H), 7.67 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.28 – 7.14 (m, 4H), 6.99 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.96 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.35 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 189.8, 165.5, 146.4, 141.3, 138.7, 136.8, 135.9, 135.6, 135.2, 134.3, 129.9, 129.1, 128.8, 127.5, 127.3, 127.1, 125.4, 120.1, 73.6, 65.4, 46.4, 21.2 ppm.

6-(4-Ethylphenyl)-2-methoxy-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-

1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3r): yield 57% (35 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.97 – 7.82 (m, 3H), 7.68 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.29 – 7.18 (m, 4H), 7.00 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 3.96 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.65 (q, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.23 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.9, 189.8, 165.5, 146.4, 145.0, 141.2, 137.0, 135.9, 135.6, 135.2, 134.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.7, 127.5, 127.4, 127.1, 125.4, 120.1, 73.6, 65.4, 46.3, 28.6, 15.6 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₆H₂₁NO₄Na 434.1368; Found 434.1366.

2-Methoxy-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-

1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3s): yield 61% (38 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H** NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.26 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.17 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.94 – 7.82 (m, 3H), 7.68 – 7.61 (m, 1H), 7.30 – 7.24 (m, 2H), 6.97 (s, 1H), 6.90 (d, J = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.11 (s, 3H), 3.95 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.25 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.0, 189.8, 165.6, 160.1, 146.0, 141.3, 135.8, 135.6, 135.2, 134.2, 132.0, 128.7, 128.5 (2C), 127.0, 125.3, 119.7, 114.5 (2C), 73.5, 65.3, 55.5, 46.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₅H₁₉NO₅Na 436.1161; Found 436.1156.

2-Methoxy-6-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-

1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3t): yield 68% (44 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.19 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 7.89 – 7.80 (m, 2H), 7.77 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 6.87 – 6.79 (m, 4H), 6.33 (s, 1H), 4.07 (s, 3H), 3.88 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.14 (d, J = 16.3 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.6, 189.9, 165.6, 163.2, 157.0, 147.9, 142.7, 135.7, 135.5, 135.1, 134.4, 128.6, 127.0, 126.8, 122.2, 121.8, 117.7, 115.3, 110.3, 73.4, 65.4, 55.8, 46.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₅H₁₉NO₆Na 452.1110; Found 452.1106.

2-Methoxy-6-(phenylselanyl)-1'H-spiro[isoindoline-1,2'-naphthalene]-

1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3u): yield 72% (50 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.13 – 8.01 (m, 2H), 7.88 – 7.78 (m, 2H), 7.71 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.31 (m, 4H), 7.27 – 7.21 (m, 2H), 6.54 (s, 1H), 4.09 (s, 3H), 3.86 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (d, J = 16.2 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.3, 189.6, 165.1, 141.4, 141.3, 135.7, 135.5, 135.4, 135.0, 134.1, 130.9, 130.0, 129.2, 128.6, 127.2, 127.1, 126.6, 125.2, 122.0, 73.3, 65.3, 46.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₄H₁₇NO₄SeNa 486.0220; Found 486.0216.



















1',3,4'(3'H)-trione (3v): yield 66% (47 mg) as grey sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 8.20 (dd, J = 6.9, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 8.17 – 8.11 (m, 2H), 8.06 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.86 – 7.79 (m, 2H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.24 (m, 4H; CDCl₃ peak is merged), 7.19 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 4.16 (s, 3H), 4.00 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 192.5, 189.6, 164.7, 142.1 (2C), 139.8, 135.8 (2C), 135.2, 134.2, 128.6, 128.0, 127.3, 127.2, 126.8, 126.5, 124.0, 121.1, 120.6, 119.6, 109.4, 73.6, 65.5, 46.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₃₀H₂₀N₂O₄Na 495.1321; Found 495.1311.

2'-Methoxy-6'-methyl-1H-spiro[anthracene-2,1'-isoindoline]-1,3',4(3H)-trione

(3w): yield 62% (35 mg) as yellowish sticky liquid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroformd) δ 8.81 (s, 1H), 8.75 (s, 1H), 8.20 – 8.14 (m, 1H), 8.14 – 8.08 (m, 1H), 7.83 – 7.74 (m, 3H), 7.30 – 7.26 (m, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 4.12 (s, 3H), 4.00 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d, J = 16.1 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 193.2, 190.0, 165.8, 144.0, 141.2, 135.6, 135.5, 131.4 (2C), 131.0, 130.5, 130.4 (2C), 130.3, 129.8, 129.2, 126.4, 124.9, 122.1, 73.4, 65.4, 46.6, 22.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₃H₁₇NO₄Na 394.1055; Found 394.1052.

2-Methylbenzo[b]phenanthridine-5,7,12(6H)-trione (4a): yield 96% (28 mg) as yellow solid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.53 (brs, 1H), 9.29 (s, 1H), 8.40 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 8.26 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.51 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 2.59 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.0, 178.8, 161.0, 145.6, 136.9, 135.7, 133.8, 133.6, 133.5, 131.6, 129.9, 128.8, 128.2, 127.5, 126.6, 126.3, 113.8, 22.5 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₁NO₃Na 312.0637; Found 312.0632.

2,3-Dimethylbenzo[b]phenanthridine-5,7,12(6H)-trione (4b): yield 89% (27 mg) as red solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.49 (brs, 1H), 9.23 (s, 1H), 8.32 – 8.21 (m, 2H), 8.23 – 8.14 (m, 1H), 7.85 – 7.74 (m, 2H), 2.49 (s, 3H), 2.44 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.2, 178.8, 161.0, 144.8, 140.3, 136.3, 135.6, 133.8, 133.6, 131.3, 130.0, 129.3, 128.5, 127.5, 126.7, 126.5, 114.1, 20.9, 20.2 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₉H₁₃NO₃Na 326.0793; Found 326.0788.

2-(tert-Butyl)benzo[b]phenanthridine-5,7,12(6H)-trione (4c): yield 94% (31 mg) as yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.59 (s, 1H), 9.52 (brs, 1H), 8.49 – 8.39 (m, 1H), 8.35 – 8.25 (m, 1H), 8.23 – 8.14 (m, 1H), 7.93 – 7.84 (m, 1H), 7.83 – 7.69 (m, 2H), 1.48 (s, 9H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.1, 178.8, 160.9, 158.4, 136.9, 135.7, 133.8, 133.6, 133.5, 129.9, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 126.6, 126.2, 125.4, 114.1, 35.9, 31.3 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₁H₁₇NO₃Na 354.1106; Found 354.1102.

2-Methoxybenzo[b]phenanthridine-5,7,12(6H)-trione (4d): yield 85% (26 mg) as yellow solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.49 (brs, 1H), 9.03 (s, 1H), 8.53 – 8.37 (m, 1H), 8.33 – 8.24 (m, 1H), 8.22 – 8.13 (m, 1H), 7.99 – 7.85 (m, 1H), 7.82 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.25 – 7.23 (m, 1H), 4.04 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.1, 178.8, 164.6, 160.6, 137.5, 135.7 (2C), 133.8, 133.7, 130.0 (2C), 127.5, 126.6, 122.2, 119.4, 113.3, 110.2, 55.9 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₁NO₄Na 328.0586; Found 328.0583.

3-Chloro-6-(prop-2-yn-1-yl)benzo[b]phenanthridine-5,7,12(6H)-trione (4e): yield 76% (26 mg) as yellow solid; ¹**H NMR** (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 9.36 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 1H), 8.50 (s, 1H), 8.18 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 8.11 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.89 – 7.67 (m, 3H), 5.53 (s, 2H), 2.27 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.4, 181.2, 161.0, 140.8, 137.1, 134.8, 134.6, 134.0, 132.6, 132.1, 130.6, 130.3, 128.6, 128.2, 126.8, 126.7, 117.7, 79.5, 72.6, 36.1 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for C₂₀H₁₀ClNO₃Na 370.0247; Found 370.0246.

Dibenzo[b,j]phenanthridine-5,7,14(6H)-trione (4f): yield 79% (26 mg) as red solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, Chloroform-*d*) δ 10.07 (s, 1H), 9.43 (brs, 1H), 9.11 (s, 1H), 8.37 – 8.25 (m, 1H), 8.24 – 8.13 (m, 2H), 8.12 – 8.04 (m, 1H), 7.93 – 7.83 (m, 1H), 7.84 – 7.75 (m, 1H), 7.74 – 7.63 (m, 2H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 183.3, 179.0, 161.7, 136.4, 136.3, 135.6, 133.8, 133.7, 132.8, 130.1, 130.0, 129.7, 129.6, 129.4, 129.2, 128.4, 128.3, 127.5, 126.6, 125.2, 114.4 ppm; HRMS (ESI) m/z: [M+Na]+ Calcd. for $C_{21}H_{11}NO_3Na$ 348.0637; Found 348.0626.



(E)-4-Methyl-2-(2-(phenylsulfonyl)vinyl)benzamide (6a): yield 91% (41 mg) as white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 8.07 (d, J = 15.4 Hz, 1H), 7.95 – 7.90 (m, 2H), 7.77 – 7.64 (m, 4H), 7.56 – 7.43 (m, 2H), 7.31 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO) δ 169.7, 140.7, 140.2, 140.0, 135.0, 133.7, 131.2, 130.2, 129.7, 128.6, 128.0 (2C), 127.2, 20.7 ppm.

NMR Spectra of Synthesized Compounds







210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 fl (ppm)











S23





$= \frac{8.24}{1.11} + \frac{8.24}{1.11} + \frac{8.24}{1.11} + \frac{8.22}{1.11} + \frac{8.22}{1.11} + \frac{8.22}{1.11} + \frac{8.22}{1.11} + \frac{8.24}{1.11} + \frac{7.28}{1.12} + \frac{7.28}{1.$































210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 f1 (ppm)









S37







$\begin{array}{c} 8.81 \\ 8.81 \\ 8.74 \\ 8.74 \\ 8.74 \\ 8.74 \\ 8.74 \\ 8.17 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 8.16 \\ 1.77 \\ 1$



















9.35 9.35 9.35 8.50 8.19 8.17 8.12 7.84 7.84 7.82 7.80 7.78 7.80 7.78 7.78 7.78 7.78

-- 5.53

- 2.27







